

Yuma Crossing became a strategic military location following the Mexican War. Settlers and the Quechan Indians fought for the rights to hold ferry operations across the Colorado. In 1852, Fort Yuma was established to keep the peace between settlers and the Quechans.

In addition to its strategic military importance, Yuma became a major port town and transportation hub. Steamboats were used to freight supplies, as were stagecoach and camel caravan. But as Yuma grew, more sophisticated modes of transportation were demanded, the outgrowth of which resulted in the development of the Southern Pacific railroad. With the establishment of the Southern Pacific, Yuma established itself as a major connecting point in the westward expansion of our country.

Today, the City of Yuma has a population of 60,000 residents, and it ranks behind Phoenix and Tucson in population. Aside from its rich history, it is endowed with unique ecological resources. With its rare combination of arid desert landscape, rugged mountains and river wetlands, the natural environment of the area is fascinating. It is the uniqueness of this mix of desert, riparian and aquatic habitats that have brought the citizens of the City of Yuma and Yuma County to seek to designate Yuma Crossing as a National Heritage Area, the first to seek such a designation west of the Mississippi.

Designating Yuma Crossing as a National Heritage Area will help preserve Yuma's early heritage and highlight Yuma Crossing's importance to opening the American West to exploration and settlement. The designation will also serve to preserve and protect its vital wildlife habitats and wetlands areas. Yuma Crossing is a vital link in our nation's heritage, and it is for these reasons that I am proud to introduce legislation that proposes to designate Yuma Crossing as a National Heritage Area. I urge my colleagues to support my legislation to preserve an important part in the history of the Wild West.

VETERANS ENTREPRENEURSHIP
AND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
ACT OF 1999

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 1999

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, over the years, the Nation has recognized the debt owed to citizens who serve in defense of our Constitution and the American ideals of free speech, personal liberty, and free enterprise. H.R. 1568 builds on the best examples of this public policy from our Nation's history. From the beginning of the Republic, when the Continental Congress provided land grants to Revolutionary War veterans, we have helped veterans with self-employment and self-sufficiency. 150 years later, the 1944 Servicemen's Readjustment Act, or "G.I. Bill of Rights of World War II" provided loan guarantees for returning World War II, and later Korean War, veterans. In the ten years following, the Federal Government provided over 280,000 small business and farm loans to veterans to help

include them in the post-war boom and use their talents to propel that boom.

Unfortunately, the Nation's efforts on behalf of veterans have diminished drastically in the intervening 45 years. Over the years, the interests of veterans, particularly the service-disabled, have fallen on infertile ground. While specifically included as a priority of the SBA at its creation, the Office of Veterans Affairs and the needs of veterans have been diminished systematically at the SBA. Elimination of the direct loan program for veterans in fiscal year 1995, at then Administrator Phil Lader's request, resulted in serious diminution of financial assistance for veterans. Total loan dollars dropped from \$22 million dollars in loans in 1993 to \$10.8 million in 1998. Likewise, training and counseling for veterans dropped from 38,775 total counseling sessions for veterans in 1993 to 29,821 sessions in 1998.

Such neglect, Mr. Speaker, would turn many people away from faith in government. However, as former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher might say, veterans are not for turning. In November 1998, the SBA Veterans' Affairs Task Force for Entrepreneurship filed its report. The Task Force examined all SBA programs, including business development, education and training, financial assistance, government contracting, and advocacy to determine ways to improve SBA's ability to assist veterans. The Task Force identified "high priority" recommendations. These included:

Legislation to allow guaranteed loans to veterans with certified service-connected disabilities or who were POWs;

A program of comprehensive outreach to assist disabled veterans, including business training and management assistance, employment and relocation counseling, and dissemination of information on veterans benefits and veterans entitlements as required by Title VII;

A company designed to address veterans' issues regarding small business; and

Regulations that include service-disabled veteran-owned businesses as a "socially and economically disadvantaged business group" to be solicited for all federal contracts and subcontracts in a documented outreach program.

The Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999 (H.R. 1568), implements the SBA Veterans' Affairs Task Force's "high priority" recommendations. First, the Task Force recommended guaranteed loan opportunities. H.R. 1568 makes veterans eligible for funds under the microloan, DELTA Loan and State Development Company programs. For example, H.R. 1568 makes veterans eligible for assistance under the SBA's microloan program which provides small loans, i.e., under \$25,000, to people seeking initial financing for small business start-up or expansion. Furthermore, H.R. 1568 requires the Small Business Administration to establish a system for loan deferrals for small business owners called up for active duty. It also requires the SBA to make economic injury disaster loans available to self-employed individuals who are called to active duty for the National Guard and reserves. These loan opportunities enable veterans to access capital markets currently available to women, low-income, minority entrepreneurs, and other business owners possessing the capability to operate successful business concerns.

Second, the Task Force identified an outreach program to assist disabled veterans in business training and management assistance, employment and relocation counseling, and dissemination of information on veterans benefits and entitlements as a priority. H.R. 1568 amends the Small Business Development Act to require the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration and the small business development center associations to train all veterans, including disabled veterans, in business training and management assistance, procurement opportunities, and other business areas. It also establishes an Office of Veterans Business Development and the position of Associate Administrator for Veterans Business Development at the Small Business Administration. This position will be responsible for the formulation, execution, and promotion of programs to provide assistance for small businesses owned and controlled by veterans. Currently, SBA has at least ten Associate Administrators. A minimum of four are required by law, and the titles of only two are specified.

Third, the Task Force urged a veterans' company to address veterans' small business issues. The Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999 creates the National Veterans Business Development Corporation (NVBDC), the bill's crown jewel. This Corporation will coordinate private and public resources from Federal organizations—for example the Small Business Administration and the Department of Veterans Affairs—to establish and maintain a network of information and assistance centers for use by veterans and the public. Furthermore, NVBDC will have the power to raise and disburse funds, establish initiatives, and award grants in furtherance of its goal of establishing a cohesive assistance and information network for veteran owned business. This is important as H.R. 1568 requires the NVBDC to become self-sustaining by eliminating the Corporation's minimal Federal funding in four years. Finally, the NVBDC will also establish an advisory board on professional certification to work on the problems service members with military technical face in transitioning into the private sector workforce. The board will be composed of representatives of professional certification organizations, such as the Coalition for Professional Certification and veterans organizations such as the American Legion. In addition, NVBDC's board of directors shall invite representatives of the Armed Services and the Department of Labor to participate.

Fourth, the Task Force sought a regulation classifying veteran-owned businesses as a "socially and economically disadvantaged business group." Rather than a regulation, H.R. 1568 affords veteran-owned small businesses an opportunity to compete on the same level with small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals. This requires that loan making decisions shall be resolved in favor of the prospective borrower and requires SBA to establish a three-percent goal for contracting with small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans.

Mr. Speaker, we all recognize our Armed Forces safeguard our freedoms and liberty at

great sacrifice to themselves. Our veterans liberated Europe and the Pacific in the 1940s, stopped the spread of communism in the 1950's, 1960, and 1970s, and freed oppressed peoples in the 1980s and 1990s. These public servants willingly worked for the United States government. H.R. 1568, the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999, makes government work for them. It provides them the opportunity to enjoy the fruits of their labor and the blessings of liberty which they secured.

Mr. Speaker, I attach hereto a section-by-section analysis and urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1568.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

Designates the bill as the "Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999".

SECTION 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

TITLE I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 101. FINDINGS.

This section describes Congressional findings regarding the sacrifices and efforts of veterans and their value to the American economy as small business owners.

SECTION 102. PURPOSE.

Describes the purpose of the Act, to encourage the SBA and other agencies to implement further efforts to assist veterans, particularly service-disabled veterans in the formation and growth of small businesses.

SECTION 103. DEFINITIONS.

Establishes definitions of veteran owned and service-disabled veteran owned small business concerns. The term "service-disabled veterans" is based on the definition in Title 38 of the US Code.

TITLE II—VETERANS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

SECTION 201. OFFICE OF VETERANS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT.

Establishes an Office of Veterans Business Development and the position of Associate Administrator for Veterans Business Development at the Small Business Administration. This position will be responsible for the formulation, execution, and promotion of programs to provide assistance for small businesses owned and controlled by veterans. There are currently at least ten Associate Administrators at the SBA. A minimum of four are required by law, and the titles of only two are specified.

SECTION 202. NATIONAL VETERANS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

This section establishes a federally chartered corporation, the National Veterans Business Development Corporation, for the purpose of guiding and monitoring public and private sector initiatives to assist the Nation's veterans in their efforts to form and grow small businesses. The most significant single purpose of the corporation will be to work with the public and private sectors to establish an independent nationwide network of business assistance and information centers for veterans. The Corporation will be managed by a Board of Directors appointed in a bipartisan fashion by the President based on recommendations from the Congress. It will have the power to raise and disburse funds, establish initiatives, and award grants in furtherance of its goal of establishing a cohesive assistance and information network for veteran owned business.

The NVBDC will also establish an advisory board on professional certification to work on the problems service members with military technical training face in transitioning

into the private sector workforce. The board will be composed of representatives of professional certification organizations, such as the Coalition for Professional Certification and veterans organizations such as the American Legion. In addition, the Board of Directors of the NVBDC shall invite representatives of the Armed Services and the Department of Labor to participate.

While they will have no mandate to change or enforce regulations, the Committee hopes that the military and private sector will work in a cooperative fashion to satisfy both the Armed Services training requirements and the public sector's need for standard certification and provide transitioning servicemembers with an easy entrance to civilian life.

To start the NVBDC it will have an initial authorization of \$2 million in the first year and \$4 million in the second and third years, dropping back to \$2 million in the fourth and final year. After the fourth year the Corporation will be self funded from private donations and no longer be eligible for federal funds. The Committee has already received testimony in support of private funding of the NVBDC and fully expects the Corporation to be self supporting within four years.

SECTION 203. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Establishes an eight member committee to provide independent advice and policy recommendations to the SBA, Congress, and the President. The committee will conduct hearings, collect information from federal agencies, develop, monitor and promote programs to aid veteran's business development, and issue an annual report to the Congress. The Committee will terminate on September 30, 2004 and its responsibilities will devolve onto the National Veterans Business Development Corporation.

TITLE III—TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

SECTION 301. SCORE PROGRAM.

This section requires the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) and the SBA to establish a program for directing management and technical assistance to veteran-owned small business and veterans wishing to establish small business concerns. SCORE provides advice and technical assistance to small businesses free of charge through a nationwide network of volunteers.

SECTION 302. ENTREPRENEURIAL ASSISTANCE.

This section requires the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) system and the SBA to establish a program for outreach and assistance to veterans and veteran-owned small businesses. SBDC's provide free management and technical assistance to small business owners through over 900 sites located at colleges and universities nationwide.

SECTION 303. MILITARY RESERVISTS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

Establishes a program of technical and managerial assistance, through the SBA, for military reservists who are self-employed or are small business owners and are called to active military duty. Requires the SBA to enhance its publicity of such assistance for the duration of Operation "Allied Force".

TITLE IV—FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

SECTION 401. GENERAL BUSINESS LOANS.

Includes service-disabled veterans with handicapped individuals in provisions requiring that loan making decisions shall be resolved in favor of the prospective borrower. H.R. 1568 also clarifies that this provision applies only to guaranteed loans and makes no requirement that the SBA reinstitute the direct programs eliminated in the Administra-

tion budget submission in 1995. According to the Administration's testimony on June 23, 1999 such a result was not desired by the SBA. Therefore, an amendment was offered to specify and reinforce the Administration's opposition to those programs.

SECTION 402. ASSISTANCE TO ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY RESERVISTS.

Requires the SBA to establish a system for loan deferrals for small business owners called up for active duty. Also requires the SBA to make economic injury disaster loans available to self-employed individuals who are called to active duty for the National Guard and Reserves.

SECTION 403. MICROLOAN PROGRAM.

Makes veterans eligible for assistance under the SBA's microloan program which provides small loans (under \$25,000) to people seeking initial financing for small business start-up or expansion.

SECTION 404. DELTA LOAN PROGRAM.

Includes veteran owned small businesses in the eligibility categories for assistance under the DELTA loan program at the SBA.

SECTION 405. STATE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY PROGRAM.

Includes the formation and creation of veteran-owned small business in the public policy goals sought in the 504 loan program for construction and long-term equipment loans.

TITLE V—PROCUREMENT

SECTION 501. SUBCONTRACTING.

Requires the inclusion of small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans in the mandatory subcontracting clause in all government contracts that establishes subcontracting plans.

SECTION 502. PROCUREMENT ASSISTANCE.

This section requires the SBA to establish a five percent goal for contracting with small business concerns owned and controlled by service disabled veterans.

TITLE VI—REPORTS AND DATA

SECTION 601. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

Requires the heads of each federal agency to report to the Small Business Administration concerning contracting with veteran owned and service-disabled veteran owned small businesses.

SECTION 602. REPORT ON SMALL BUSINESS AND COMPETITION.

Requires the SBA to include information on small business concerns owned by veterans and service disabled veterans in the annual report on small business participation and opportunities in federal procurement.

SECTION 603. ANNUAL REPORT.

This section requires the Administrator to submit an annual report to Congress on the needs of veteran owned small business and the progress of programs designed to aid and promote veterans small business ownership. The Administrator shall also provide statistical information on veterans participation in SBA programs.

SECTION 604. INFORMATION COLLECTION.

Requires the collection of procurement data on veterans and service-disabled veteran owned small businesses, and collection of information on the procurement practices of each federal agency. All such information is to be made available to any small business concern requesting it. The information is also to be distributed to federal procurement officers. Also requires the SBA and VA to work to establish a database on veteran owned small business concerns.

TITLE VII—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SECTION 701. ADMINISTRATOR'S ORDER.

Requires the administrator to strengthen and reissue the order implementing the provisions of PL93-237 which requires the SBA

to fully include veterans in all the programs, purposes and activities of the agency.

SECTION 702. OFFICE OF ADVOCACY.

Requires the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the US Small Business Administration to include an evaluation of the efforts of the federal government to assist veteran owned small business concerns as one of his primary functions. The Chief Counsel is also required to provide statistical information on veterans utilization of federal programs. Also requires the Chief Counsel to make recommendations to the Administrator of the SBA and Congress on programs and efforts to assist veteran owned small business concerns.

SECTION 703. FIXED ASSET SMALL BUSINESS LOANS.

Requires the Government Accounting Office to conduct a study of the feasibility of using the VA home ownership loan program as a source of fixed asset financing for veteran-owned small businesses.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAN MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 1999

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to insert in the RECORD that I inadvertently voted "yes" on rollcall 392 on September 8, 1999. I intended to vote "no" on this Roemer amendment to H.R. 2684 to stop funding for the international space station.

I believe this is an important NASA project. I have supported the space station in the past and have voted against Mr. ROEMER's previous amendments to kill the space station.

IN HONOR OF THE LATE MAX KLEIN

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 1999

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Max Klein, a volunteer and community leader who will be greatly missed by the South Florida community.

After spending a large portion of his life in New York as a highly successful newsreel editor, Max Klein and his wife Anne retired to South Florida where they took up residence in Lauderhill. Max soon plunged himself into the community in the hopes of improving the lives of his new neighbors and friends. Attending local government meetings on a regular basis, Max became totally immersed in the South Florida community. He contributed his time to various political campaigns and judicial battles, for Max truly believed that one man could make a difference. He was undoubtedly successful at getting his voice heard on all levels of government. As Commissioner Ilene Lieberman, former Mayor of Lauderhill and current County Commission Chairwoman, recently noted, "Max was a very special person. . . . He definitely made a difference in the community."

In addition to his outstanding activism, Max Klein distinguished himself through his extraor-

dinary devotion to volunteerism. Soon after moving to Lauderhill, Max became involved at his local library, teaching gifted children how to write creatively. This involvement soon led him to become involved with the Pompano Beach Middle School as well. In honor of this tremendous devotion to volunteerism, Max was elected to the Dr. Nan S. Hutchison Broward Senior Hall of Fame.

In summary, Max's extraordinary devotion to the community around him is truly a rarity in this age, and he will be sorely missed by the Lauderhill community, as well as by the South Florida community at large. Max Klein was an extraordinary human being who went above and beyond what he needed to be, because of his sincere desire to help his fellow man. We will all miss Max, but we are lucky to have so many memories of his life and work.

IN HONOR OF NORTHEAST OHIO'S DESIGNATION AS THE 74TH CLEAN CITIES REGION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Northeast Ohio's designation as the 74th Clean Cities region under the U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Cities Program.

Clean Cities is a national partnership formed to increase the use of clean-running alternative fuel vehicles. The Northeast Ohio Clean Cities designation encompasses Cuyahoga, Lorain, Medina, Summit, Portage, Geauga, Lake, and Ashtabula Counties in Northeast Ohio. The Northeast Ohio Clean Cities program is driven by The Northeast Ohio Clean Fuels Coalition, a group of dedicated people and organizations led by the Earth Day Coalition, a long-time leader in environmental protection for Northeast Ohio.

On Tuesday, September 14, 1999, U.S. Energy Secretary Bill Richardson will formally designate Northeast Ohio as the 74th Clean Cities region in a ceremony to be held at the Great Lakes Science Center on Cleveland's Waterfront. The Northeast Ohio region joins other partners recognized by the U.S. Department of Energy, including Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, and Chicago.

Northeast Ohio, a region historically known as a pioneer in the automobile industry, has more recently become a leader in the production and use of electric and alternative fuel vehicles. The Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority helped pioneer the use of alternative fuels in its fleet. Northeast Ohio is home to the NASA Glenn Research Center, an organization pioneering the future of hybrid engine technologies. Furthermore, the Northeast Ohio Clean Fuels Coalition was formed to promote alternative fueling stations and alternative fuel vehicles to regionally facilitate the development of a nationally viable alternative fuels industry. Achieving Clean Cities is a significant next phase in Northeast Ohio's commitment to alternative fuels and alternative fuel vehicles. This designation is an important step to achieving more local awareness and acceptance of alternative fuel vehicles that will,

in turn, draw greater support for legislation that will enhance the alternative fuels marketplace.

As the 74th Clean Cities region, the Northeast Ohio Clean Fuels Coalition will seek to facilitate alternative fuel vehicle production, conversion, and use, expand fueling availability, create new jobs and commercial opportunities, advance objectives outlined in the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 and the Energy Policy Act of 1992, increase public awareness of alternative fuel benefits, and provide greater fuel choices in the Northeast Ohio area.

I am pleased to welcome Secretary Richardson to the Northeast Ohio area where I am certain he will be impressed by the commitment of the dedicated individuals who are working to make Greater Cleveland a more environmentally and economically sustainable place to live and work. It is an honor to recognize the Department of Energy's Clean Cities program and the Northeast Ohio Clean Fuels Coalition on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives.

IN TRIBUTE TO DR. ALEXANDER GONZALEZ, PRESIDENT OF CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY SAN MARCOS

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 1999

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I was honored on Sept. 1, 1999, to take part in the first inauguration ceremony of the California State University San Marcos, and to listen closely to the remarks of its energetic President Alexander Gonzalez.

The CSUSM campus represents a way station on the road to the American Dream for thousands of people of North San Diego County today and for tens and hundreds of thousands of people in Southern California tomorrow. While San Marcos until recently could claim to be the newest Cal State campus, like the community where it is located, it is growing and maturing. And now, in its tenth anniversary year, Cal State San Marcos is the sole four-year public university in one of the most rapidly growing regions of the country. And it is North County's only federal depository library.

And it is becoming truly great.

You can see its new greatness with new buildings arising on campus, new housing in the works, and a new outdoor facility for track and field. Even the long-overdue replacement of the Twin Oaks Valley Road interchange is under way, serving this campus and the surrounding community.

But its true greatness is more difficult to view on first glance. It is less evident in its buildings than in its people—in the legacies established by the late State Senator Bill Craven and its first president Bill Stacy, and in the person of its current President, Alexander Gonzalez.

Cal State San Marcos is on the front lines of training a new generation of quality teachers for our schools. It is instructing this generation and the next about the tremendous